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DEMOCRATIC
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Calling the RAF!

The man in uniform at the left of the front row in this war-time photograph is Fritz von Engelbrechten, today a judge at the West German Federal Court in Karlsruhe.

During the war Engelbrechten served as a nazi judge in the Luftwaffe Court in Brussels, occupied Belgium. Evidence is available that he sentenced seven Belgians to death for sheltering a shotdown RAF man.

The RAF man concerned is believed to have survived the war. Anyone who knows of his whereabouts or has any knowledge of this case should rush details to

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SCRATCH A JUDGE AND FIND A NAZI

Over the past few years, GERMAN REPORT has repeatedly published details of the hundreds of old nazi judges who are today back on the bench in West Germany.

In these articles, apart from giving the names of many of these judges, and details of their crimes, mainly involving death sentences on German anti-fascists and people in the occupied countries, we have stressed two facts:

1. We have only been exposing judges with clearly criminal records; men who took part in the dispensation of justice in routine cases, in traffic courts and so on, have been excluded.

2. The records held in the GDR are only fragmentary, since the nazis destroyed many files at the end of the war, and other large parts of the archives are held under lock and key in West Germany; as a result it has been impossible to identify all of Hitler's hanging judges.

Following the revelations made in the GDR about the very lurid past record of many leading West German judges, and as a result of widespread international protest, the West German authorities were forced last year to urge many of the more seriously incriminated judges to retire. About 150 did so, and the West German Ministry of Justice announced that the affair was now ended, except for five or six "unclarified" cases. It should be stressed that in no single case was a judge brought to justice for the crimes he had committed; instead they were all granted full pensions.

These retirements by no means cleared the air, since an estimated 800 judges and public prosecutors who are known to have served in Hitler's "Special Courts" and military courts still hold their posts in the West German courts.

Events in the past few weeks have shown that this frightening figure was by no means final; a number of old nazi jurists, hitherto unlisted, were identified on the staff of the Federal Attorney General, and in the Federal Court at Karlsruhe, the West German Supreme Court.

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The revelations followed the arrest by West German police on October 5th of GDR publisher Günter Hofé. By mid-November Hofé had been held for over five weeks without any public announcement of the charges against him. Observers believed that he might have been arrested because his firm in the GDR has published a number of books exposing details of the past history of such nazi war criminals as General Adolf Heusinger.

After the arrest of Hofé it became known that the West German official in charge of the case against him was Federal Attorney Joachim Loesdau. Investigation in the GDR into Loesdau's record showed that he joined Hitler's Storm Troops in 1933, and in 1941 had been appointed judge at Bydgoszcz in nazi-occupied Poland. This court was notorious for the severity of the sentences which it passed under the special nazi "Criminal Code for Poles" which prescribed the death sentence for almost all offences ranging down to minor thefts.

The second nazi jurist identified in the Hofé case is Fritz von Engelbrechten, who signed the warrant for his arrest. Von Engelbrechten is a judge at the West German Federal Court. Nazi files held in the GDR give no information about his past record, but after his name had been mentioned in the press, a witness came forward who could throw some light upon the matter. The witness was Frau Edith Röpke, who lives today in Dallgow, not far from Berlin. During the war she was called up, and worked for some years as typist on the staff of the Luftwaffe Military Court in occupied Brussels.

She gave evidence that Fritz von Engelbrechten had been a judge in this nazi court. She testified:

"I recall clearly that von Engelbrechten passed many death sentences on innocent people in occupied Belgium. One case I remember particularly clearly: he sentenced to death an entire family, including a child and an old man of 70, because they had hidden a shot-down British pilot."

And today this man is a judge in the Supreme Court of West Germany.

Gestapo Office to be Probed

West German and West Berlin legal authorities have finally decided to investigate the activities of Himmler's "Reichssicherheitshauptamt" or Reich Security Main Office, the central authority which ran the Gestapo, Eichmann's liquidation service, and all other parts of the nazi machine of repression.

It was announced on November 1st in West Berlin that legal experts will now examine the files of the Reich Security Main Office "to decide if any members of this organisation have escaped punishment". The investigators should have no difficulty in identifying Himmler's officers, since a high proportion of them work in the West German police and intelligence forces.

Announcing the belated opening of investigations, more than 18 years after the end of the war, Wolfgang Kirsch, West Berlin Senator for Justice stated: "We have to reckon with an enormous propaganda campaign from the east if we do not make a last attempt to deal with those National Socialist crimes which have so far gone unpunished."

Legal observers in East Berlin greeted the belated decision to investigate the crimes of the Reich Security Main Office, but were doubtful that much would come of the investigation. They pointed out:

1. Under West German law, all nazi crimes except murder are now covered by the statute of limitations. West German courts today generally classify nazi murders as "manslaughter", and this general ruling would mean that even a top criminal like Heinrich Himmler could not be prosecuted unless it could be shown he had killed someone with his own hands.

2. So many former top nazi policemen today hold such key posts in the West German police that they can easily sabotage enquiries; together with former nazi judges and prosecutors they may well be able to delay any legal action until May 1965, when murder too will fall under the statute of limitations, and any nazi criminals discovered after this date will go scot free, however horrible their crimes.

Another Autobahn Incident

A small US troop convoy, bound for West Berlin over the autobahn which runs for 100 miles through the GDR, was held up at the border in early November for 41 hours while American and Soviet officers wrangled about checking procedures.

The basic difficulty which leads to such incidents is that the whole situation of West Berlin, a capitalist island in a socialist sea, has never been properly defined and codified. Political observers in Berlin stressed that until the West Berlin situation has been put on a proper legal basis, the undefined situation both of the city-state itself and the access routes to it could always lead to new friction.

Commentator Chapman Pincher, writing in the London "Daily Express" on November 7th, stated:

"Seen from Moscow, West Berlin is almost as much an island occupied by a potential enemy as Cuba is viewed from Washington. The western argument is that the Allies are there by right of a treaty signed 18 years ago. But the entire political situation has changed since then — permanently in my opinion . . . Khrushchov must and will continue to draw the world's attention to the Berlin problem. While he welcomes the 'detente' which he needs for urgent domestic reasons, he cannot let the sore of Berlin fester indefinitely without treatment.

"I am confident he has no more intention of seeing Moscow ruined over Berlin than Kennedy has of sacrificing New York. But if Kennedy has a solemn promise to the 2,000,000 West Berliners, Krushchov has a promise — of a peace treaty — to 17,000,000 East Germans."

(GERMAN REPORT gave the background of recent "autobahn incidents" on page 155 of the issue dated November 1st).

Yemen — GDR Consular Link

The GDR and Yemen will exchange consular representation under an agreement signed in Cairo on October 28th. The GDR will open a Consulate-General in San'a, capital of Yemen, and Yemen a Consulate-General in Berlin.

GDR PENETRATES PENTAGON

GERMAN REPORT Special

Teletype machines made in a socialist factory in the German Democratic Republic have been installed in the Pentagon, Washington, HQ of the US Defence Department.

The trade name of the machine is the RFT Blattschreiber Type T 51a, and it is made in the RFT nationally-owned factory at Karl-Marx-Stadt in the GDR.

The GDR teletype machines handle part of the traffic at the Washington end of the "hot line" between Moscow and Washington, designed to avoid the risk of accidental war. The line was opened on August 30th, when US Army operators tapped out the first test message: "The quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog's back".

Under the "hot line" agreement, signed between the Soviet Union and the USA in Geneva on June 20th, each side should furnish the other with four sets of telegraphic equipment, without any payment. The Soviet Union supplied Washington with the GDR-made equipment.

DOES THE HOT LINE EXIST?

By the Editor

The news given above that electrical equipment from the German Democratic Republic forms a vital part of the "hot line" system should be, for West German propagandists, convincing proof that there is no such thing as a hot line.

The reasoning is quite simple:

1. The German Democratic Republic does not exist.
2. A non-existent country cannot produce anything.
3. Therefore there cannot be any teletype machines in Washington.
4. Therefore the hot line is a fiction.

Luckily this reasoning is false; the German Democratic Republic does exist, and the technicians and workers of the GDR who produced the teletype machines now clicking away in the Pentagon are proud that they have had a direct part to play in recent measures to reduce international tension.

"Lesson for Social Democrats"

The leaders of the West German Social Democrats stand further to the right than any other Social Democrats in the world, "Neues Deutschland", journal of the Socialist Unity Party in East Berlin, stated in a leading article on November 6th.

The editorial, entitled "A Lesson for Social Democrats", pointed out that leaders of the French Social Democrats had recently visited the Soviet Union and reached agreement with Soviet leaders on a whole series of measures for the relaxation of tension.

"The French socialists have been realistic, and such realism should be a matter of course. Unfortunately this is not the case in West Germany; it is impossible to find in the speeches and declarations of the right-wing Social Democratic leaders ideas similar to those formulated by the French socialists in Moscow.

"For instance, what about the relaxation of international tension? Social Democratic spokesmann Erler recently stated officially that 'Germany continues to exist in the frontiers of December 1937'. This was simply a repetition of the West German Chancellor's opinion.

"What about disarmament? In the same speech in parliament Erler called for 'a broad spectrum of defence weapons', thus supporting the demand for nuclear arms for the Bundeswehr. No other Social Democratic Party in the world supports this demand.

"Compared with the leadership of other Social Democratic parties, the West German Social Democratic leadership stands not only on the extreme right wing; it even stands well to the right of common sense. At meetings of the Socialist International the Wehner-Erler group of the leadership acts as a Fifth Column for the 'wild men' in Bonn.

"Has not the time come for the West German Social Democratic leadership to realise that travel broadens the mind, particularly study trips through the GDR? They are heartily invited to visit the GDR instead of hiding behind a wall of prejudice and preconceptions."

GDR Fishes Far Afield

The GDR ocean fishing fleet now catches twice as much fish as in 1958. In consists of 33 loggers, 25 trawlers, 106 cutters, two auxiliary ships, one transport and processing ship, six fishing and processing ships and two fishery resarch ships of the Ocean Fishery Research Institute in Rostock on the Baltic.

GDR fishing vessels today go as far as Newfoundland on fishing trips. Before the war fishing from East German harbours was confined to trawling in the Baltic.

There were more than 25,000 sports stadiums and sports grounds in the GDR at the end of 1962. About a quarter of these were built with money from the national sweepstake.

Rethink German Policy

By Fred Warner Neal

(Fred Warner Neal was formerly consultant to the US State Department on Russian Affairs. Today he teaches international relations at the Claremont Graduate School, California. On October 19th "The Nation", New York liberal weekly, published an article by Mr Neal entitled "Moment for Choice", calling for an overhaul of US foreign policy. We reprint below those passages dealing with German affairs, but GERMAN REPORT does not identify itself with Mr Warner's views.)

If there is to be any really new foreign policy thinking in the Administration, it must involve not only a reconsideration of our attitudes toward the USSR but also of our policy toward NATO and Germany. The three are intimately related.

The validity of NATO is founded on the assumption that there is danger of Soviet military aggression against Western Europe. This is the "idee fixe" that has determined American policy and led the country into the fiascoes of the European Defence Community, the alienation of France and the "multilateral" nuclear deterrent schemes. It has blocked any solution to the German problem by giving West Germany a virtual veto over our initiative. Unless it is overcome and abandoned, here and now, it promises to block progress toward a real detente with the Soviet Union.

The fact is that NATO has always been largely a paper organisation. That it could ever have provided any defense against Soviet attacks rested on the baseless assumption that a war in Europe could be "limited", that is, less than thermo-nuclear. But even in that unlikely case, NATO forces have never been strong enough to oppose a concerted Soviet attack. One sometimes wonders why those who espouse the NATO idea think the Russians have stayed their hand. It is sometimes said that they have been deterred by American thermo-nuclear capacity, but that has nothing to do with NATO; and, in any event, its own credibility is wearing thin.

Today, the situation is worse than ever. With France out of NATO for all practical purposes, and the likelihood of a further diminution of Britain's already insignificant role, it is not too much to say that the organization is virtually falling apart.

Faced with this situation, there are military planners in Washington who seek to reconstitute NATO in the form of a Washington–Bonn axis. If NATO had any real military significance, this might make sense, because it would only formalize the long-evident fact that NATO amounts to little more than US forces in Europe backed by the increasing military strength of West Germany.

It is because of West Germany's crucial NATO role, in terms of both forces and geography, that US policy has been so beholden to Bonn. This would be bad enough in itself, but the more serious aspect of it is that it impels us to policies which interfere with the very thing that presumably we want — the detente with Moscow.

There can be no detente, nor any political security or stability, until there is general acceptance of existing boundaries in Central Europe. Today these boundaries are challenged, not by the Soviet Union, but by the West Germans and the Americans, who refuse to accept East Germany and its Oder-Neisse frontier. It is this refusal, essentially, that blocks any solution to the Berlin problem. For — repeated official and newspaper statements to the contrary notwithstanding — the Russians have not demanded withdrawal of US and allied troops from West Berlin. They have demanded recognition of East Germany and its borders.

West Germany's reluctance to back away from this conflict of interest is understandable, Bonn being committed to a demand for all of Germany plus (at least) those former parts of the Reich now in Poland. This is a hopeless and disruptive — and therefore a senseless — position. It is also a German position about a German matter. Why does the United States persist in it?

The answer is that we dare not recognise East Germany, or even discuss the matter with the Russians, because we are afraid that if we do West Germany will jeopardise NATO — either by pulling out or by making a deal with the Russians on their own. We feel we cannot take this risk because without West Germany there would be no NATO. And we must maintain NATO because it is necessary to protect Western Europe from Soviet military aggression. So we get right back to where we started from.

The reasoning is fallacious all the way through. First, the threat against which NATO is supposed to protect does not exist. Second, if it did exist, NATO would not furnish adequate protection. Third, the West Germans have demonstrated in their bilateral relations with France that they will act independently in their own behalf regardless of our constancy. Fourth, the threat of a Bonn-Moscow "deal" is, like NATO itself, an anachronism.

About this last a word should be said. There is no doubt that the Russians would like to woo the West Germans, but the fact is that they don't have much to woo them with. In earlier years they might well have offered to abandon the East German communists if Bonn and Washington had agreed that a reunited Germany should stand outside NATO. But Bonn and Washington would not agree to this and, meanwhile, East Germany has been built up into a full-fledged satellite state. Moscow now has so much political capital invested in East Germany that it could not give it up if it wanted to, especially in view of the "hard-soft" dispute with the Chinese. Furthermore, the notorious Ulbrich regime, which once might have responded to a Soviet command to commit suicide, today very likely could not be forced to give in.

That the East German state is here to stay for a long while by no means excludes the possibility of some kind of rapprochement between the two Germanys. Indeed, this is quite likely to come about, and whether it proves a bad thing for us or not may depend on whether we wake up to the inadequacies of our policies before the West Germans wake up to the inadequacies of theirs.

Pensions in the GDR

PROPER CARE FOR THE AGED

Proper provision for all citizens in their old age is the aim of the German Democratic Republic, and there have been considerable increases in old age pensions over the past few years.

As in other countries, however, pensions have tended to lag behind a general increase in the standard of living, and in order to help close this gap the government has decreed considerable increases for most pensioners as from January next year.

The long-term aim in social security planning is to anchor pensions firmly as a fixed and generous proportion of wages earned while working; full implementation of this plan will have to await the overcoming of special factors outlined below, and a further increase in the national income.

Here is a summary of the pension position in the GDR today:

Old age security schemes had to start off from scratch in East Germany after 1945, since all pension funds were lost. The situation was made even more difficult by the tremendous losses in able-bodied persons during the war, which produced an adverse pensioner-to-worker ration. This unfavourable ratio will continue for a considerable period, because the birth-rate was abnormally low between 1941 and 1948, with the result that today fewer young workers are coming into industry at the bottom to replace the old people going out at the top. Another factor, which is of course common to all advanced countries, is that life expectancy is continually rising. It was just under 60 for men and just under 63 for women in Germany in 1932, but by 1960 it had risen in the GDR to over 67 for men and over 72 for women.

As a result of all these factors, there is today one pensioner for every three workers in the GDR and this ratio will remain a problem for some years to come.

Despite all difficulties, every effort is being made to increase basic pensions. The average old age pension is now about 152 marks monthly, compared with 40 marks in 1947 and 92 marks in 1956. (Average wages in the GDR are between 400 and 500 marks.)

The retirement age for women is 60 and for men 65; in one important particular the GDR old age pension scheme differs basically from that in Britain and many other countries: people who continue working after pensionable age draw their pensions in full in addition to their wages and are exempt from social insurance contributions.

Standard old age pensions are paid to all contributors to the general social insurance scheme, the vast majority of people. The minimum pension is 124 marks a month for a single person and 149 marks for married couples if the wife was not separately insured. Widows' pensions are slightly less. A further increase based on the number of years worked, to be introduced in January 1964, will bring minimum pensions up to 129 marks a month and considerably raise the average.

This increase will consist of 50 pfennigs per month for every year worked. For example, a pensioner now entitled to 150 marks a month who has worked for forty years, will receive an extra 20 marks a month. Widows will be entitled to half the increase which would have been due to their husbands.

Women pensioners are granted a special adjustment so that they are not at a disadvantage because they retire five years earlier than men. In calculating the increased pensions special flat rates will cover periods when people were not working through no fault of their own (war service, prisoner-of-war terms, pre-war unemployment etc.)

Orphans' pensions have doubled in the past ten years and will be increased again next year in the same way as widows' pensions, that is, they will get half of what would have been due to their deceased parents.

The average disability pension is 146 marks and the minimum is the same as the old age pension. It is calculated on the degree of disability and on previous wages, plus children's allowances if children are still not earning.

There are additional allowances for the seriously disabled, for those needing nursing care and for partially or totally blind pensioners.

When payment of these higher pensions begins next year the total sum paid out annually will be nearly three times as high as in 1951.

There are a number of exceptions to these basic pensions, all adjusting the sum paid upwards and not downwards. For example, railway and postal workers who have worked in these services for ten or more years consecutively get pensions up to a maximum of 70 per cent of their former earnings. This puts them between 150 and 800 marks. These pensions will not go up in 1964, since they are already higher than the average standard workers' pensions. Pit-face miners also get considerably higher pensions; they receive a basic pension plus a monthly supplement of 2.5 per cent of annual wages. The average is now 285 marks a month and miners will get the 1964 raise. These higher pensions are partly financed by higher social insurance contributions paid by the mining enterprises.

Another group receiving special consideration are those who were persecuted by the nazis for political or racial reasons, and their families. Retirement age for them is 55 for

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women and 60 for men and they receive pensions whether or not they are covered by the social insurance scheme. Their pensions vary from a minimum of 259 marks to a maximum of 459 marks.

Trade unionists who have been members for 40 years receive an extra ten marks a month from trade union pension funds if their pensions are under 200 marks a month.

People working in certain specially important professions, such as doctors, teachers, scientists, some types of engineers and technicians, etc. at present receive two pensions, the usual one from the social insurance fund and an additional pension based on the salary received during the last working year.

Old people are also assisted in other ways. There are, for example, more than 900 pensioners' homes and about 300 special homes for old people who need nursing care, both types run by the Ministry of Health and heavily subsidised by the Government. Pensioners pay up to 60 marks a month to live in a special home, but keep the rest of their pensions as pocket-money. These homes can at present accomodate about 100,000 people and there are long waiting-lists, so that preference still has to be given to old people who are quite alone in the world, are poorly housed or are no longer able to fend for themselves.

In addition, there are about 270 "veterans' clubs", mainly in larger cities, which provide free entertainment and inexpensive midday meals for old people. (A hot meal costs 30 pfennigs — the price of three cigarattes).

When pensioners die their families receive burial assistance of between 100 and 400 marks, calculated on the pensioner's wages during the last year he was working.

All the above arrangements apply to persons insured under the general social insurance scheme. Members of agricultural production cooperatives, craftsmen's cooperatives and independent craftsmen employing not more than five workers, and all other groups of people working on a freelance basis have their own social insurance scheme (excepting doctors and dentists in private practice, who are covered by the special scheme referred to earlier). The legal pension regulations — retirement age etc. — are the same for these groups as under the general social insurance scheme, but pension scales are calculated on a different basis. These pensions will also be increased next year.

Huge Trade Pact

One of the biggest-ever trade pacts was signed by the Soviet Union and the GDR on October 26th. The total trade turnover under the agreement for 1964 will be more than 2.5 thousand million roubles (about £1,000 million).

The Soviet Union will supply the GDR with three quarters of its raw materials, including as much as 90 per cent of such necessities as iron ore, anthracite, rolled steel and cotton. Deliveries of Soviet oil to the GDR through the new long-distance pipe-line will start in 1964.

Other products from the USSR will include foodstuffs and agricultural products, machinery and equipment, chemical products and consumer goods.

The GDR will supply the Soviet Union with more than half its machinery imports. It will also supply fine mechanical and optical instruments, chemical products and consumer goods, of which the most important item is furniture. As a result of its huge sales to the Soviet Union, the GDR is today the biggest furniture exporter in the world.

"Bigger Cut for Britain" Call

British industry should try to get a bigger share of the GDR market, the influential London magazine "Director", journal of the Institute of Directors, stated in its November issue.

British businessmen should stand back and look with a dispassionate eye at the future prospects of trade with the German Democratic Republic, the article by Ronald Clark stated.

"It seems inevitable that during the next decade this new nation of 17 million will provide an increasingly valuable market.

"British manufacturers will of course be inhibited by the fact that the British Government, like the old lady seeing the giraffe, refuses to admit that any such thing exists.

"However, the situation is well within the British capacity for ingenious compromise. Britain is accepting a far smaller cut of the trade cake than she could justifiably obtain if those involved really brought pressure to bear."

W. Germany Holds Children

More than 500 children from the GDR are being held in West Germany against the wishes of their parents, the Committee for Human Rights announced in East Berlin on October 31st.

The West German authorities refuse to allow these children to join their parents mainly with arguments that they would be "undernourished" in the GDR, or that they would be "unable to develop their free personality" in the Democratic Republic.

Most of these children fall into one of two categories; some of them, mostly young teen-agers, have crossed the frontier illicitly when running away from home or out of a spirit of adventure; the others are children of broken homes in which the courts have awarded custody to the parent living in the GDR.

In reverse cases, in which West German children are discovered in the GDR, they are always returned promptly to their parents, a spokesman of the Committee for Human Rights stated. Since the beginning of this year a total of 135 run-away West German children have been returned to their parents.

Cathedral Consecrated

The Catholic cathedral in East Berlin, destroyed by bombing in 1943 and just re-built, was consecrated on November 1st by Dr Alfred Bengsch, Catholic Bishop of Berlin.

The cathedral, one of Berlin's finest buildings, was originally built in 1773. Re-building started in 1952, assisted by GDR government allocations totalling nearly half a million marks. The dome is made of steel concrete, specially insulated and covered with sheet copper.

Professor Hans Schwippert, West German architect, designed the interior, which contains eight side chapels, including a christening chapel.

Max Sefrin, GDR Deputy Prime Minister, and Hans Seigewasser, State Secretary for Church Affairs, represented the GDR government at the ceremony. Pope Paul VI sent a message of greetings.

From the West German Press

1. A Civic Conscience Does Not Pay

(re-printed from the "Frankfurter Rundschau", West Germany, November 5th).

Some West German Boy Scouts dreamed of holding all-German talks; their dream ended abruptly when the Ministry of the Interior of Hessen Province instructed the customs authorities on the frontier to intercept a group of young people from Leipzig (in the GDR) on their way to Frankfurt/Main (West Germany). But the customs officers waited in vain; shortly before the group left Leipzig, the Frankfurt Scouts telephoned to tell them that their presence was "not desired" in the Federal Republic.

In any case, the planned all-German talks on proposals for a peaceful solution of the German problem would have provoked police action against hosts and guests; the Free German Youth organisation (FDJ) has been banned in the Federal Republic for years as an "unconstitutional organisation".

Frankfurt Scouts who spent some weeks in East Germany in January this year knew this. The FDJ has 1.7 million members, so they could not help meeting "blue-shirts" as well as "non-organised" youth on their "expedition to unknown parts of Germany". While they were there the Scouts had found that "despite all the fundamental differences of opinion, things were not what we had thought. In any case, we should not cut them, but argue with them."

They had not regarded their talks with the FDJ as a frightful political crime, for they remembered the Western slogan: "Arguments with the East must not be conducted with guns but with intellectual weapons". The five West German scouts who had tried to create human contacts scarcely realised that they might come into conflict with the laws of the Federal Republic when they invited East German youths to pay a return visit to Frankfurt.

The Hessen branch of the Scouts organisation saw no objection to an official invitation to the Leipzig FDJ. Nobody regarded the ban on the FDJ in the Federal Republic as an obstacle to the invitation.

The Scouts had consulted Frankfurt city councillors to help them work out convincing arguments for their discussions with the envoys of the "first German workers' state", and the councillors, too, saw no objection to the meeting.

(Then, to make quite sure, they applied to the provincial government, the article stated, and this led to the ban).

The Ministry of the Interior was asked how contacts between young people in East and West Germany were to be achieved, if not through such contacts. The Ministry of the Interior replied:

"It was our official duty to inform the Scouts about the legal position and to draw their attention to the threat of legal action ... Since the invitation had been sent officially to the FDJ organisation, and not to individual young people in Leipzig, we had to draw attention to the ban."

Thus the Frankfurt Scouts fell victim to their own sense of citizenship. "If we had not drawn the matter to the attention of the authorities," they say, "our guests would have come to the talks and nobody would have given it a thought."

And now they have received a telegram from Leipzig suggesting that the talks be held there if "free discussion is impossible in the Federal Republic."

2. Publisher Vanishes

(Condensed from the West German "Neue Rhein-Zeitung", November 5th).

Let us suppose that a prominent publisher from London were arrested on espionage charges on his way to the Book Fair in Frankfurt in the German Federal Republic. Our newspapers would have reported this under glaring headlines, and commentators would have called upon the Public Prosecutor to explain the arrest.

But something like this has really happened. It provided the background to the opening of the Frankfurt Book Fair. The only difference was that the man arrested was not a Briton, but came from the other part of Germany, from the communist governed zone across the Elbe.

With very few exceptions, our papers reported only very briefly on the arrest. It seems to me that we are up against a dangerous but general tendency here. Communists are not socially acceptable with us. They are outlawed and considered beyond the pale. Anybody who takes up the cudgels for a communist who is unjustly treated runs the risk of being suspected of communism himself. And once he draws suspicion on himself he may find himself in serious difficulties. That is why people get less and less excited when official action which would otherwise arouse loud protest is taken against a communist.

A communist? people think. Oh well, that's not so terrible; he has certainly been up to something. And in any case it can only damage one's own reputation to take sides with a "red".

What is developing here is a new kind of group hatred. A fatal tendency in our country, for it drives a wedge through our conceptions of justice. Where a communist, or someone suspected of communism, is concerned there is no need to bother too much about justice or law. This already calls up memories of the "Third Reich", when whole population groups such as the Free Masons, Jehovah's Witnesses and Jews were shorn of legal protection and delivered up to trial and conviction.

Today the expression "left-wing intellectual" is being bandied about mischievously. Now that the Social Democratic Party has become an "all-class" party and can no longer be declared "unpatriotic", the German right wing need a new bogeyman to frighten people with — and they have hit on the "left-wing intellectuals", who are allegedly so stupid that they let the communists make use of them. A group of officers recently called Professor Carl Friedrich von Weizsäcker a left-wing intellectual because of his sharp criticisms of West German policy.

This inexorable spread of anti-democratic thinking would be laughable if it were not so tragic.

(GERMAN REPORT adds: the GDR publisher referred to in this commentary, Günter Hofé, is not a Communist, but a member of the National Democratic Party of the GDR. He was arrested on October 5th in West Germany, and when this issue of GERMAN REPORT went to press charges had still not been preferred against him. More details of the case on page 162.)

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

In a recent issue of GERMAN REPORT (September 20th) we noted that the West German film censors had cut great chunks out of the Vittorio de Sica film "The Condemned of Altona" because "it presents West Germany in an unfavourable light".

Since then I have managed to get my hands on a fuller version of the judgement handed down by the censors, who boast the name of "Voluntary Self-Control of the Film Industry" and operate as a semi-official body roughly equivalent to the British Board of Film Censors.

Before I go into any of the rollicking details, which I trust may be of some help to film makers who want to get their opi (or perhaps opuses) shown uncut in West Germany, I should perhaps note that "Condemned" has been shown in Britain and the United States without disturbing any of the reviewers or censors. Many reviewers called the film "disappointing", but that is a different matter.

Gas Ovens

In the film "Condemned", one of the characters, who appears to be suspiciously liberal although his father is a West German industrialist, states:

"Do you think I admire Flick, Krupp, and my father? Every time I see a Mercedes-Benz car, I smell the stink of the gas-ovens."

The West German film censors cut this passage, commenting:

"It cannot be tolerated that names such as Krupp, Flick and Mercedes-Benz, which are today respected and honoured for their impressive achievements in the whole world including the under-developed countries, should be associated with the inhuman and criminal events of the nazi period ...

"The fact that only a few names are mentioned, and that others are suppressed, cannot be allowed since this amounts to the throwing of a tendentious light on historic facts.

"In addition, this passage in the text is very similar to East Zonal (GDR, ed.) Communist hate propaganda, which states that such and similar names, which had been guilty of unleashing the World War, are today back in the highest and most influential posts in West Germany, run expensive cars, and are the same people who are supposed to have murdered persons during the nazi period."

(Please excuse the muddy wording which is that of the West German film censors).

The second passage cut by the West German censors is a sentence spoken by a militarist:

"Today we have guns and butter; and soldiers; and tomorrow the bomb".

The reason given for cutting this sentence is hair-raising; this is nazi propaganda, they say:

"The association with National Socialist terminology is so clear that it is capable of giving encouragement to National Socialist and nationalist tendencies."

After this fine bit of dialectic, the censors immediately turn a somersault, and give a second reason for cutting the "guns and butter" sentence:

"It could easily have been taken from an East Zonal broadcast. These words are capable of decreasing respect for the constitutional basis of the German people."

After studying carefully these examples of how the minds of the West German film censors work, I am glad to provide film-makers with a few short tips on what they should do if they want to get their films through West German censorship:

1. If any of the characters in your film mention the name of Krupp, etc, make sure that they add a few laudatory words on what kind men West German cannon kings are, and what a lot of good they have done for the world. As an extra precaution, you might mention they are kind to animals.

2. If the theme of your film makes it necessary to mention any nazi war criminals, then you will have to turn it into a monster epic and name the lot. Otherwise the censor will run you in for leaving out some of the names.

3. Before making your film, make quite sure what the Communists have said on any conceivable subject, and then say the opposite. Otherwise the censor will say you are echoing Communist propaganda. (This may be difficult, since Communists say so much about so many things).

4. Before making your film, make quite sure what the nazis said on any conceivable subject, and say the opposite. Otherwise the censor will say you are "associating yourself with National Socialist terminology". (This is likely to be difficult too, since the nazis said so much about so many things).

On reflection, it would probably be better not to make a film at all, or at least not to hope to show it in West Germany.

Just incidentally, the West German film censorship board is headed by a former naval officer named Ernst Krüger. During the nazi period he produced nazi propaganda films for the UFA trust.

Prejudice

In the previous Notebook we mentioned that Dr Forester, a judge in Frankfurt/Main, West Germany, who had been nominated to preside at the forthcoming trial there of 23 SS guards of Auschwitz liquidation camp, had been withdrawn from the case because he was "prejudiced." His possible prejudice was seen in the fact that near relations of his had been murdered by the nazis.

Now a new judge has been nominated for the trial, due to open in December this year. He is Hans Hormeyer. He is, of course, completely unprejudiced: he only served as a judge in one of Hitler's military courts which sentenced anti-fascists to death.

Nelson Touch

Everybody knows by now that West Germany and other countries refuse to recognise the existence of the German Democratic Republic, but the West German Government recently went a step further and proclaimed that the GDR is not there to be recognised even if someone wants to.

Let me present the evidence: On October 10th the GDR sent a letter to the United Nations calling for international cooperation. Since the GDR is not represented in New York the declaration was circulated by the Czech delegation. On November 6th, the West German government solemnly protested, stating: "This letter is intended to awaken the impression that there is another government in Germany apart from the Government of the Federal Republic".

It is very odd. I have been living in the German Democratic Republic for 13 years now; the non-existing government has collected my taxes, repaired the roads, run the schools and done all the other things a government does.

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